

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps.

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy



Airman 1st Class Nichole Adamowicz

Smiles across the miles

Tech. Sgt. Lazaro Puentas, 31st Mission Support Squadron, and his family smile for the camera while recording a Hometown Holiday Greeting here Oct. 1. Aviano members recorded more than 200 greetings which will air on televisions across the United States during the holiday season.

Program emphasizes responsibility

Worden announces plan to reduce accident, drunk driving rates

By Airman 1st Class Jessica Switzer
Vigileer staffwriter

Brig. Gen. Michael Worden, 31st Fighter Wing commander, recently announced his plan for reducing vehicle accident and driving under the influence rates at Aviano.

The program, which focuses on responsible driving, went into effect Monday. "We want to reduce motor vehicle accidents and DUIs to keep our people alive for their families and their units," said Lt. Col. Patrick Miller, 31st Fighter Wing chief of safety, and project officer for the new program.

"I think it's a great start," said Master Sgt. Vance Klepadlo, 31st Mission Support Squadron first sergeant. "It's about time

we took more of an offensive stance on this problem."

The new "Personal Responsibility Condition" program is a series of measures can be implemented should a certain number of DUIs or vehicle accidents occur in a given time period. The more incidents, the higher the RESCON, and more measures are enforced.

The program is formatted like Force Protection Conditions. "We have certain things we can implement depending on the situation," said Miller. "We don't have to implement all of the areas in a certain RESCON." Some of the measures include limiting access to local businesses that sell

See PRC, page 3

Good to know

- October is designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. An informational booth will be at the Aviano Base Exchange today. Community members are encouraged to stop by and learn more about the disease that kills about 39,800 women a year.

- Candy donations are now being accepted at the Aviano Community Center and Aviano Youth Programs to give to the Trunk or Treaters on Halloween.

- Surety Tidbit: An Entry Authorization List is a list of essential personnel authorized to enter certain restricted areas. Inspector General team members have to be on an EAL in order to access areas where EAL procedures apply. Line badges, identification cards or inspector badges are not sufficient for access.

- Aviano Air Force members are encouraged to log onto <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil> to take the Air Force Climate Survey. The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete. It runs until Nov. 23.

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RESCON ALPHA

1-2 DUIs and/or 1-3 MVAs

- Local establishment whose primary business is serving alcohol and contributed to the DUI is off-limits the next weekend.
- At-fault drivers involved in MVAs will prepare a MISHAP report and brief incident at next local conditions refresher course or commander's call.
- Unit safety representative or flight commander will brief traffic safety every Friday.

RESCON BRAVO

2-3 DUIs and/or 3-5 MVAs

- Local establishment whose primary business is serving alcohol and contributed to the DUI is off-limits the next weekend.
- At-fault drivers will also brief squadron commander.
- Squadron commander, deputy or flight commander briefs traffic safety every Friday.
- Leadership strongly considers telephone recall messages

RESCON CHARLIE

3-4 DUIs and/or 5-7 MVAs

- All local establishments who primary business is serving alcohol are off-limits the next week.
- At-fault drivers involved in MVAs will also brief group commander.
- Squadron commanders brief traffic safety every Friday.
- Squadron will be recalled on the weekend day after a DUI.
- Prohibit alcohol consumption at all unit locations and restrict alcohol purchases for one week.
- Set up several speed traps and checkpoints.

RESCON DELTA

4 or more DUIs and/or more than 7 MVAs

- Local establishment whose primary business is serving alcohol and contributed to the DUI is off-limits the next weekend or longer.
- At-fault drivers involved in MVAs will also brief the wing commander.
- Deputy Group commanders and above brief traffic safety every Friday.
- Conduct squadron-wide recall for DUIs; telephone recall for MVAs.
- Prohibit alcohol consumption at all unit functions or locations.
- Set up even more speed traps and checkpoints.

See PRC, from page 1

alcohol, and restricting the sale of alcohol on base. "The wing has been looking at ways to bring the numbers (of accidents and DUIs) down," said Miller. "The good news is that almost everyone is using their seatbelts and that's saving a lot of lives. But the bad news is that crashes still happen."

Some of the measures that the wing is taking to encourage members to drive responsibly include regular advertisement of the Airmen Against Drunk Driving and Aviano Flyer Shuttle bus programs. These programs give Aviano members safe alternatives to driving under the influence.

Squadron commanders, chiefs and first sergeants are asked to walk dormitories and local establishments; Klepadlo says that he likes to have a more personal relationship with his troops anyway.

"I walk the dorms all the time," said Klepadlo. He often stops to talk to the airmen hanging out on the balconies. "I ask them what they are doing that night. They'll be going to (a local club) and I ask who's driving. It's good to know that they have a plan."

"We want them (commanders, supervisors, first sergeants, and chiefs) to show their presence and be out there with the troops," said Miller.

The goal of the program is to decrease the number of DUI incidents and traffic accidents caused by American people at Aviano that result in injury or death. Miller said the PRC is the Aviano

basewide program to encourage individual responsibility when driving.

"We had input from the whole base," Miller said. "Everyone—squadron commanders, chiefs, and first sergeants—were sent the program and asked to get input from their units."

An education program is in place to keep members aware of the hazards they face on Italy's roads. Regular refreshers on local conditions are offered quarterly for wing members and mandatory attendance annually.

Alcohol education is another heavily emphasized portion of the RESCON education plan.

"We want there to be more personal accounts," said Miller. "It has more impact when it's a real person telling their story."

Miller said that those who wish to share their stories with others should contact their supervisors or first sergeants for more information.

"We want people to be responsible for their actions," he said.

"Safety isn't a program or a slogan," said Worden in his safety policy letter. "Safety isn't a commander's interest item. Safety isn't an additional duty. Safety is an attitude that is a natural and central part of our everyday job—done right the first time, every time—no excuses."

Faces mourned, but not forgotten

In just over a year, Aviano has lost four of its team to motor vehicle accidents. The Personal Responsibility Conditions program is designed to help stop the fatalities.

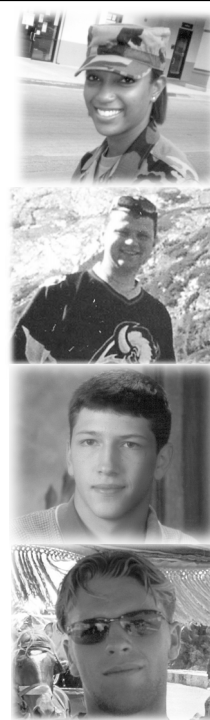
Daphne Webb, Mike Wilson, Corey Podnar, John P. Morton Jr. These are the names and faces we must not forget. These are the reasons driving under the influence and vehicle accidents must stop. They were good people, valued by their friends and co-workers.

"She (Daphne Webb) always had a smile on her face. If you saw her face ... you'd forget whatever trouble you were having," Staff Sgt. Cash Poland, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"Mike (Wilson) will be missed so much by John and me, he brought us such a great friendship and a lot of smiles and laughs," Staff Sgt. Michelle Kelly, 31st Maintenance Squadron.

"Corey Podnar was the kind of person that was easy to like. He was friendly, kind, and an all around good guy," Staff Sgt. Russell Murray, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

"His (John P. Morton Jr.) love of life paled only in comparison to that love for family, friends, snow skiing, and traveling in Europe," Master Sgt. Richard Rentze, 31st Maintenance Operations Squadron. (Compiled by Airman 1st Class Jessica Switzer)



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The public affairs staff reserves the right to edit all material in accordance with the Associated Press Stylebook.

In Memoriam

Local national passes on

The Aviano community lost a respected member when Paolo Poles died due to diabetes complications Oct. 1. The manager of the wood skills center was at work when he suffered a heart attack.

A memorial service was held in his honor Tuesday at the Aviano Chapel for those where not able to attend his funeral.

Poles is survived by his wife Luciana, and two daughters, Silvia and Lara. (31st Services Squadron)



Courtesy photo

Paolo Poles, who was the wood skills center manager, passed away Oct. 1.

vMPF evolves for airmen

1st Lt. Kristin Haley

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A recent Military Personnel Flight survey provided feedback used to improve the existing virtual outprocessing program for Aviano members.

Although the virtual outprocessing program or VOP began in February, the MPF is still working to improve the process.

"As with any new system, you're going to have growing pains. This initial assessment will help us identify where we need to make those changes," said Capt. Melanie Stewart, Military Personnel Flight commander.

"It's a growing system and we are using the feedback," said Capt. Jennifer Judd, chief of Personnel Relocation and Employment. In fact, when we identify areas that need

improvement, we are able to make changes locally added Judd.

The VOP is in line with the USAFE initiative combat intro/exit and aims to make leaving Aviano as close to a one-stop process as possible. Members still have to physically go to certain base agencies, but only to places that apply to them. For instance, members without pets no longer have to physically go to the vet clinic and have them sign the outprocessing checklist.

Although the survey has formally ended, the MPF still welcomes feedback. "We are still working to get the glitches out of the system and will do so until we feel comfortable with VOP," said Stewart. She added that VOP is the wave of the future and the MPF has made a great start. For more information or to provide feedback, call Ext. 8100.

FSC class helps new AF spouses

By Yesim Poulin

Family Support Center

The Aviano Family Support Center has a new orientation class that offers information, education and fun to Air Force spouses, who are new to the blue.

Spouses who have been with the Air Force for five year or less are invited to experience this informal yet very useful new class, which is offered once a quarter beginning Thursday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Aviano Base Chapel Annex. Heart Link orientation class is designed to help increase mission readiness and strengthen military family relationships.

Heart Link is not a typical class. It is designed to entertain while educating. During Heart Link new to the blue spouses will be playing games such as Spouse Jeopardy patterned after the television game show, Jeopardy. "It will be particularly fun when we get to the game called What's My Line, inspired by and named after the once popular TV show," said one of the class coordinators Vickie Jo Ryder.

Spouses who would like to sign up for Heart Link can call the FSC at 0434-665407.

Donations returned to the community through CFC

By 2nd Lt. Lea Ann Chambers

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas, which began on October 1, hopes to raise even more money this year than last year. In 2002 CFC-O raised \$11.2 million, which represented five percent of total donations, even though the overseas community only represents two percent of the federal workforce.

"The goal is to have 100 percent contact with all possible donors," said Capt. Melanie Stewart, 31st Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight commander and CFC-O installation project officer. "Unit keyworkers will contact their unit members over the next couple of weeks."

This year the opportunity to win a brand new Volvo, regardless of contribution, is meant to encourage even more contacts than in years past. "All they have to do is complete a drawing form, located in the pledge card, and they will be entered to win the car. They don't have to donate anything to the campaign to enter the drawing," said Master Sgt. Earl Aycox, 31st Fighter Wing Ground Safety superintendent and assistant project officer.

Family Support and Youth Programs is another point emphasized by CFC coordinators in this year's campaign. "Inside the CFC book there is a code for youth programs," said Aycox. "It's good to know that if you are going to give money, that it comes back to the base."

"Part of the donation goes to the Family Support Center, and

part goes to Youth Programs on the donor's base. The funds support things like Operation Yellow Ribbon, which fed and entertained troops moving through Aviano in the spring," added Stewart. "Twelve thousand of the \$259 thousand raised at Aviano last year went back to FSYP."

Donors who are unsure of the exact name of their preferred charity can do a keyword search on the CFC-O website to find charities listed under a subject.

To be included in the CFC a charity must have documented proof that it meets strict public accountability standards, and that its overhead costs are less than 25 percent. Being involved in the CFC means lower overhead costs for the charity. The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

All U.S. Government personnel serving overseas, military or civilian, are able to give to the CFC. Department of Defense contractors and foreign national employees are also able to give. "Personnel here on temporary duty are also able to give at Aviano. However, if they want to give to FSYP at their home station they will have to get in contact with someone back there. Otherwise they are welcome to give here," said Stewart.

Donors and their units can also receive awards based on the amount of their donation. The minimum gift for military personnel and civilians is \$1 per pay period. For as little as \$2 a month, CFC organizations can purchase a winter sleeping bag for a homeless child. The Combined Federal Campaign ends Dec. 10.

Airmen achieve success in Liberia

More than 300 people from U.S. Air Forces in Europe returned from supporting a safe and effective operation for Joint Task Force Liberia recently.

USAFE members were called to be a part of a joint team July 13 that was forged to stem violence and allow food to be distributed after fighting flared up among groups vying for power in Liberia, Africa.

Gen. Robert "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander, reflected on the selfless sacrifice and dedication of USAFE airmen during the past three months in JTF-Liberia.

"Our airmen demonstrated courage, leadership and the agility to get the mission done," he said. "I am very proud to be associated with everyone who made this operation succeed. For those who deployed—and their families—thanks for your commitment and service."

Although not specifically directed at American citizens or interests, the violence around the capitol city of Monrovia threatened to spill over onto U.S. Embassy grounds.

USAFE's role was extensive according to Col. Bob Steel, USAFE Theater Air and Space Center commander.

"Nothing would be possible without the

talents of our expeditionary units," he said. "On short notice they deployed more than 3,500 miles and set up two forward bases."

Once in place, USAFE's airmen quickly saw action. HH-60 helicopters and personnel deployed from Naval Air Station, Keflavik, Iceland, along with support from the 786th Security Forces Squadron, Sembach Air Base, Germany, provided tactical airlift reinforcing the U.S. Embassy with U.S. European Command's Assessment Team and U.S. Marines who augmented the security forces in country, he said.

"During those initial sorties, our aircrews withstood volleys of AK-47 fire and mortar rounds bursting within a football field's distance of the compound's walls," Steel said. "We also had one of our medical teams live in the embassy. This team's skills were needed, but fortunately not too often."

In addition, USAFE's airfield experts helped re-open the main airport in Liberia and made sure it was safe for U.S. Air Force and other aircraft, he said. Moreover, when a surprising illness afflicted 40 plus Marines, USAFE airmen rapidly provided the medical evacuation and treatment needed for them to be transported to hospitals.

Other Air Force professionals on site



Tech. Sgt. Justin Pyle

A U.S. Air Forces in Europe member guards a C-130 Hercules Aug. 26 while deployed to Liberia.

included security forces, theater air mobility and rescue forces, communications experts, civil engineers and finance personnel. There were many others who supported the operation from Northern European bases, he added.

"In addition to their role within the Joint Task Force, USAFE's deployed airmen provided a face on our nation's commitment to our partners in this part of the world," Steel said. By September, military forces from African nations had deployed to Monrovia and a degree of stability returned. As of Oct. 1, the United Nations assumed the lead for peace operations in Liberia. (USAFE News Service, Ramstein)

Sortie Board

31st FW

	Hours	Sorties
<i>Goal</i>	1094.6	666
<i>Actual</i>	1000.2	597
<i>Delta</i>	-94.4	-69

510th FS

	Hours	Sorties
<i>Goal</i>	491.2	342
<i>Actual</i>	443.1	322
<i>Delta</i>	-48.1	-20

555th FS

	Hours	Sorties
<i>Goal</i>	603.4	324
<i>Actual</i>	557.1	275
<i>Delta</i>	-46.3	-49

RESCON CORNER

	<u>DUIs</u>	<u>Vehicle Accidents</u>
Week	0	17
Year	29	644
Last Year	35	539

23: Deaths due to accidents since 1994

2: Injuries from accidents this week

14: Traffic complaints this week

Be sure to pick up next week's Vigileer to see the following figures:

- Money lost due to forfeiture
- Articles 15 for alcohol-related incidents in 2003
- Stripes lost for alcohol-related incidents
- Money lost due to accidents

Also, a general description of recent drunk driving incidents will be printed here. The name of the individual will not be printed.

Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving
before it's too late

0434-66-5938



Senior Airman Lakisha Croley

Class Act

Senior Airman Robert J. Oliver, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Cryogenics Technician, instructs the Science research Class from the Aviano Highschool on the hazards of liquid nitrogen during a demonstration conducted by the Cryogenics Flight.

Call-to-service enlistee swears in

The first person to enlist under the National Call to Service program swore in Oct. 1 during a ceremony at the Military Entrance Processing Station in San Antonio.

Brig. Gen. Edward A. Rice Jr., Air Force Recruiting Service commander, administered the oath of enlistment to Hector Barreto from Ingleside, Texas. Barreto is the first person to take advantage of the Air Force's 15-month active-duty enlistment.

"I'm glad I am now in the Air Force," Barreto said. "I'm a little nervous, but this is exciting -- I'm looking forward to going to basic training. I think I have made a good choice."

Barreto will be trained in the security forces career field.

National Call to Service is a congressionally mandated program passed as part of the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act. The program's enlistees comprise 1 percent of the Air Force fiscal 2004 goal of 37,000 enlisted

accessions. They incur the same eight-year military service obligation as traditional four- and six-year enlistees.

The 15-month active-duty enlistment period begins after the completion of basic and technical training. The initial enlistment is followed by either a 24-month active-duty extension or selected regular Reserve duty. The recruit chooses how he or she spends the remainder of the military service obligation -- active duty, selective regular Reserve, inactive Ready Reserve or other national service programs designated by the secretary of defense.

The recruits will serve in one of 29 career specialties and receive one of three incentives that include a \$5,000 bonus, \$10,000 in college-loan repayment or education benefits mirroring the Montgomery GI Bill program, officials said. (Air Force Print News)

**To contact
Aviano's Air
Force
recruiter
call
0434665832**

Airmen can review records online

The Air Force has implemented a new program enabling airmen to complete record reviews online through virtual Military Personnel Flight. Airmen will soon receive e-mail notifications around their birthday each year advising them to review their electronic personnel records maintained in the military personnel data system.

"After the customer logs in to vMPF and accomplishes his or her record review, a hard copy should be printed for the member's personal records," said Master Sgt Don Taylor, superintendent of customer support operations at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

"If all of the information is correct, no further action is required until the next annual review."

In some areas where errors may be found, the member can make the needed changes through the links provided. The member should make the corrections as soon as he or she discovers it, said Taylor. Other errors not yet updateable through the virtual Record Review can be corrected by the individual's MPF or commander's support staff.

For more information, call Ext. 4699. (AFPC)

Extra! Extra!

Holiday print greeting available for troops

The Army and Air Force Hometown News Service offers its free print holiday greeting program to servicemembers worldwide. The program, now in its fourth year, opened for submissions Oct. 1 and runs until Nov. 25.

An important change for this year's program is open access to the program by individual servicemembers.

The print greeting program is a fully electronic Internet program that allows any servicemember to send a formatted holiday greeting to relatives through the Hometown News Service here.

After processing, the HNS staff e-mails the greetings to newspapers serving the relatives' community. The program is free to both the servicemember and their community newspaper.

"We have more than 1,000 hometown newspapers signed up for newspaper holiday greetings, and they each cover several ZIP code areas," said Gerry Proctor, HNS chief of marketing.

"Each form can generate several releases. The greetings are distributed according to ZIP codes and state. When the servicemember puts in their ZIP code ... the computer ... distributes a release for every subscribing newspaper covering that area."

"Complete and correct information is vital," Proctor said. "Submissions without a ZIP code or with an incorrect ZIP code go nowhere."

Besides having several releases generated from each form, the servicemember can input multiple forms as well.

"Each person can submit as many greetings as (he or she wants)," Proctor said. "You can send holiday greetings to your parents, in-laws, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and anyone who is a relative as long as you have their city, state and ZIP code."

Program information and forms are accessible on HometownLink at <http://hn.afnews.af.mil> from any government computer system. (Air Force Print News)



BAO office volunteers

The Office of Defense Cooperation Attached is looking for E-7 volunteers to fill billets in Bilateral Affairs Offices in Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, and Moldova. Nomination packages are due to U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Force Personnel Center for Albania by Oct. 24 and for the other countries by Nov. 14. For more information, call Ginny Basl, At DSN 314-480-9729

Math stats class

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers a Math-211 Statistics class and a COM-221 Technical Report Writing class Oct. 27. Registration is ongoing Monday to Oct. 26. For more information, call Ext. 5140.

Post office reminder

Aviano members must notify the Aviano Post Office when going on leave or temporary duty for more than five days. Mail can be held or forwarded after the member completes a DD Form 2258. A notification e-mail can be sent from the Aviano Intranet by clicking the "Living Here" tab, then scrolling down to the "Request to Hold Your Mail" under the post office tab.

Deployments and student loans

Deployed or mobilized servicemembers are not required to make student loan payments during their absences. The law also allows active-duty people who have not begun the repayment period on their loans to continue receiving a grace period before repaying their loans.

For more information, call 1-800-433-3243 or visit the Department of Education Web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov>.

Office closure

The Pass and Registration office is closed for training from 7:30 to noon Oct. 17.

Resume writing

A resume writing class is scheduled 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 17 at the family support center. The class provides tools to prepare professional resume. Topics include resume formats, style, appearance, references, keyboards and identifying how volunteer skills can be marketable in the civilian workplace. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Boot shining

The Defender Council shines combat boots 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Oct. 17 at the Aviano Base Exchange. For more information, call Ext. 7210.

Job opportunity

The Aviano Thrift Shop is now accepting applications for its manager position. Applications are available at the shop in Area Two Bldg. 224 during its business hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fridays.

People can call Ext. 5428 or write to avianothriftshop@yahoo.com for more information.

Teen parenting class

The Active Parenting of Teens class introduces skills and discussion for those with a teen or pre-teen from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for six consecutive Wednesday beginning Oct 22 at the Aviano High School. Call Renee Moore to register at 0434-66-5477.

ERAU classes

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University offers a MATH-211 Statistics class. This class will start on October 27th.. ERAU also offers a COM-221 Technical Report Writing class starting October 27th.

Registration will be ongoing from October 13th until October 26th. For more information call ERAU @ 632-5140

University of Maryland

The University of Maryland College Term II begins Oct. 27. Registration runs from Tuesday to Oct. 24. Students can sign up for seminars until the Friday before they start. UMUC will offer the major in History and minors in Sociology and Government soon. Call Exts. 5365 or 5351 for more information.

Practical tips

People who want to visit some local villas or take a weekend trip can attend the Practical Tips For Weekend Trips class on Tuesday from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the family support center. The instructor provides a power point presentation and a bit of history on various locations (both local and throughout Italy) during the class. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

Tips for Venice

A Practical Tips for Venice class is Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the family support center. The class can help people make the most of their Venice trip. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

First time investors training

This class held Thursday from 2 to 3 p.m. defines basic savings options such as CD's, mutual funds, and stock options. It provides the first time investor with the knowledge and tools to research savings and investing options while outlining the investor's "risk personality." For more information, call Ext. 5407.

Smooth Move

A Smooth Move seminar is 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 17 at the family support center. The class brings the major base agencies that play a vital role in a servicemember's PCS together. Orders are not required to attend. Call Ext. 5407 for more information or to sign up.

Asilo assistance

Family support center has information about enrolling in the the local Italian Pre-School or Asilo. The FSC staff can also assist personnel in enrolling their children in the Asilo with their registration. For more information, call Ext 5407.

Filing for marriage in Italy

The family support center can assist people with filing their marriage paperwork and setting up downtown appointments. Call Ext. 5407 for more information.

Reel Times

Today – 5 p.m. "Pirates of the Caribbean" PG-13

A rogue pirate teams up with the governor's daughter. Starring: Johnny Depp and Geoffrey Rush

Today – 8 p.m. "Marci X" R

Ben Feld is hospitalized and his daughter Marci steps in. Starring: Lisa Kudrow and Damon Wayans

Saturday – 2 p.m. "Pirates of the Caribbean" PG-13

Saturday – 7 p.m. "Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life" PG-13

Lara Croft, finds the mythical Pandora's Box. Starring: Angelina Jolie and Gerard Butler

Sunday – 7 p.m. "Marci X" R

Monday and Tuesday – Closed

Wednesday – 7 p.m. "Marci X" R

Thursday – 11:30 a.m. "Treasure Planet" PG

\$1 children's movie matinee

Thursday – 7 p.m. "Tomb Raider: Cradle of Life" PG-13

Oct. 17 – 5 p.m. "Jeepers Creepers 2" PG-13

The Creeper embarks on a final voracious feeding frenzy. Starring: Jonathan Breck and Justin Long

Oct. 17 – 8 p.m. "American Wedding" R

Jim and Michelle have decided to tie the knot. Starring: Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan



Brig. Gen. Mike Worden
31st Fighter Wing
commander

Commander's Connection

This is your direct link to let me know your comments or unresolved complaints. I will personally see each question is answered and select those of general interest to appear in the "Vigileer." All items may be edited for brevity and clarity.

Comments can be submitted by:

- E-mailing cc.connect@aviano.af.mil
- faxing to Ext. 7083
- mail a letter to 31FW/PA, Unit 6140 Box 100, APO AE 09604-0100
- delivering to public affairs, Bldg. 1360, Room 19. You may remain anonymous upon request. However, to receive a reply, include your name, unit and phone number.

The Commander's Connection is not intended to replace the chain of command, so before contacting the Commander's Connection, talk with managers, supervisors or first sergeants.

Street lights on base roads

Q: Recently my squadron started working grave-yard shift and a lot of the time we go to the Grab-and-Go to get our meals. When you are driving along the main road that runs next to the HAWC there are no lights, often leaving you to go past the turn going to the BX. Several times we have gone past this road and had to turn around and come back. Another place this happens is where you cross Mike Loop going towards the main gate. These roads can be seen by your head lights but sometimes they are very hard to make out. Could something be done about this? One suggestion could be putting up street lights in these areas.

A: The areas you identified present us with a unique challenge due to their proximity to the airfield. Installing traditional street lighting was considered in the past however, that was not possible due to the restrictions specified in the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 3-260-01, Airfield and Heliport Planning and Design.

Despite the restrictions, there are alternative solutions we have identified to make those areas safe. We have a work order to install reflectors on either side of the roadway and on the centerline that will assist vehicle operators to stay within lanes and identify intersections. We anticipate this work to be completed this fall. In addition, we are researching the feasibility of installing low profile lighting that may comply with the UFC.

Ultimately, the portion of the road that passes the HAWC, will be realigned due to the construction of the new south aircraft parking ramp. The road will curve southward connecting directly to Cap Maurizio Pagiano Street (the road that leads to the BX from the current C-130 parking pads). This realignment will eliminate confusion and make that area much safer.

Again, thank you for taking the time to alert me about the potential safety hazard and assisting to take the necessary actions to eliminate that hazard.

Hispanics defending freedom –

By Col. Jose R. Aragon
Pacific Air Forces Financial
Analysis Division, Hickam Air
Force Base, Hawaii

Many Hispanic Americans have been drawn to military service for myriad of reasons -- to seek opportunities for education, growth, advancement, skills and professional success. Other factors include a sense of patriotism, love of country and hunger to serve. Hispanic Americans have contributed gallantly to the defense of our nation. We have 40 Medal of Honor recipients, more than any other demographic segment.

Indeed, the military and civilian contributions of Hispanic Americans reflect a deep commitment to the principles of freedom and democracy. From the American Revolution to our latest conflict, the global war on terrorism, Hispanic Americans have risked and sacrificed their lives to defend freedom.

Here are just a few achievements of some of those individuals:

The Civil War's most famous Hispanic was Adm. David Farragut. He served gallantly in the Civil War and was instrumental in capturing New Orleans and seizing control of the Mississippi River. He

has been immortalized in history books for his war cry, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" He was the first admiral in the Navy. Congress created the rank for him, specifically, in recognition of his contributions during the Civil War.

In Silvis, a small town in northwestern Illinois, there is a street named Hero Street, formerly known as Second Street. It is just one and a half blocks long in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. Joe Gomez, Pete Macias, Johnny Munoz, Tony Pompa, Frank Sandoval, Joe Sandoval, William Sandoval and Claro Soliz grew up together in this small street in a very close-knit community, working for the railroad, just as their fathers before them had done. They went to war in World War II without hesitation and never came back.

As it turns out, 84 men from the 22 families who resided on this street participated in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. This street has contributed more men to military service than any other place of comparable size in the United States. Hero Street, U.S.A., has a remarkable story of personal sacrifice and patriotism.

In 2001, America lost a Latino patriot who was diligent in the defense of his country

contributions to remember

and who protected American lives many times over. His code name, Tango – Mike – Mike, stood for "That Mean Mexican." This patriot, who was also a Medal of Honor recipient, was Army Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez. In his book "Medal of Honor: One Man's Journey from Poverty to Prejudice," He wrote these memorable words:

"I believe that there is no greater calling for a man or woman to serve in the military of a free nation. I believe that it is a calling that transcends all others because embedded deep within the soul of every free man or woman is the knowledge that every freedom we have was earned for us by our ancestors, who paid some price for that freedom. Each and every generation must relearn those lessons, and they are best learned by doing. The strength of every free nation depends on this transfer of knowledge. Only through the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation will free men survive."

Opportunity, combined with education, is a key to success; and the military is a great place to seek it, find it and achieve success from it. (Courtesy of Pacific Air Forces News Service)

Kudos

Several Aviano members graduated from the Airman Leadership School here recently. The graduates are:

31st AMDS: Senior Airman Stephani Branscomb

31st AMXS: Staff Sgt. Rene Ayala, Staff Sgt. Samuel Brandt, Senior Airman Christopher Croley, Senior Airman Justin Smith, Senior Airman Michael Ward

31st CES: Senior Airman Bernard Harper, Senior Airman Benjamin Johnson, Senior Airman Ulysses Kasinger, Senior Airman Elvan Rowe

31st CS: Staff Sgt. Frederick Conway, Staff Sgt. David Wright, Senior Airman Jessica Kistler, Senior Airman Brian Kuhns

31st LRS: Senior Airman Lashanna Ansley, Senior Airman Gerrod Hartkamp, Senior Airman Jeannie Liedtke, SStaff Sgt. Kelly Mayberry,

31st MDSS: Senior Airman Jennifer Gutierrez, Senior Airman Ernesto James

31st MUNS: Staff Sgt. Jefre Potterbaum,

31st MXS: Senior Airman Kevin Cantrell, Senior Airman Stephanie Grossman, Senior Airman Brian Martell, Senior Airman James Parks

31st OSS: Staff Sgt. Bobby Hickman, Staff Sgt. Erica Rogers, Senior Airman Franchesca Pillich

31st SFS: Staff Sgt. Salahudin Maetteos, Senior Airman Zachariah Keyes, Senior Airman Latoyia Lyle, Senior Airman Larry Pope, Senior Airman Tina Ward,

603rd ACS: Senior Airman Deborah Rodriguez

Award recipients are:

John Levitow Award
Senior Airman Gregory Dixon, 31st CS

Leadership Award
Senior Airman Bryan Tkacs, 31st MXS
The Academic Achievement Award:

Senior Airman William Hall, 31st CES

Distinguished graduates are:
Senior Airman William Hall, 31st CES

Staff Sgt. Carl Zunker, 31st MXS

Senior Airman Michael Curry, 31st SFS

Playgroup plans provide place to play

By Connie Owens

Aviano family member

Plans are now underway to renovate an Area Two underground parking garage and make it a playground for the children of Aviano Air Base.

Volunteers plan to paint murals on the walls and paint a race track on the floor to make the "underground playground" a warm and inviting place to play. The Aviano Officers and Civilians Spouse's Club donated \$450 to purchase toys and play equipment for the playgroup.

"I hope to look around soon and see floor mats, slides, jungle gyms, and little tike tables and chairs full of children running, jumping, sliding, riding their wheeled toys on the race track, and drawing and coloring at the tables," says Col. Scott Chambers, 31st Mission Support Group commander and father to son Brock, 3. "I think we are just in our infancy of this program."

The playgroup will be entirely dependent on volunteers in order to ensure this program continues.

Volunteers will be needed for the renovation process and to operate the program on a daily basis. Volunteers will also be needed to keep the playground clean, garbage bags emptied, and the gate opened and closed. Spouse's organizations on base are encouraged to volunteer to rotate the sitting service for



certain weeks or hours. Mission Support Group and Family Support will be in charge of bits and pieces of the program and are currently in the process of appealing to all base organizations for funding.

The long-term vision for this

program is that Aviano Air Base has something to offer to the spouses of preschool-aged children each day of the week. Hopefully, the program can provide supervised playtime by others while spouses can spend a couple of hours at the gym two days a week, a play date for the children one day a week and a movie matinee one day. Other agencies like ITT will get into the act by planning a low-cost excursion in the nearby region for spouses while the playgroup watches the children. Other ideas include arts and crafts classes during the playgroup time.

The current playgroup now meets 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays in Area D until further notice. Outdoor Recreation is allowing the group to use the lodge there in case inclement weather. The staff there also assist the group by setting up jumping castles and opening and closing the facility each week. Spouses are asked to sign an attendance sheet so that organizers can stay in touch to advise them of any changes to the program.

Domestic violence can be stopped

By Diane England, Ph.D.

Helping Agencies Together chairperson

Aviano hasn't had high rates of domestic violence in the past, but that doesn't mean that it doesn't happen.

Senior Master Sgt. Ron Blietz, 31st Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, is experienced in dealing with families where there has been a domestic violence incident.

"Over and over, I've seen the young kids involved in these situations blaming themselves for what's going on. They feel it's their fault that their parents are having the problems they are—and that if they were better children, none of this would have happened," he said.

Blietz noted young children believe they're responsible for the bad things that happen in their families. In some homes, abuse goes on for long periods of time. These children are more affected than those exposed to less.

"Some parents think since they're not in the same room with the children when they're fighting, the kids don't know what's going on. But they hear it. It still hurts them," Blietz said. "They overhear, and they have no idea what's going on or what to believe. They still think they're bad kids."

Some parents tell their children that they're the problem—which is emotional abuse.

"I've heard parents tell a child, 'If it weren't for you, we'd have a better marriage.' These parents don't take any responsibility for their own behavior," he said. "They don't realize that even if the child is acting out, it's typically just the child reacting to them—to their behavior."

Blietz said he has seen incidences where families might be separated or breaking up because of domestic violence that occurred. "The child is often put in the middle. The parents expect the child to deliver messages—and then sometimes one parent gets angry about the message delivered—or further fighting ensues over what was said. I've heard a child say, 'If I only hadn't said that, they wouldn't be fighting.' You and I know that isn't the case—but the child doesn't."

Sometimes parents think they're just being abusive to each other and not to the children. However, it's often hard for someone being abused to not pass some of that on to others.

Blietz feels step-families are particularly at risk of emotionally abusing children without realizing.

"It seems like the natural parent often tolerates behaviors a step-parent doesn't like and wants the child to change," he said. "I see step-fathers who think they're being strict but not emotionally abusive. But the name-calling or putting the child down—calling him or her stupid all the time, for example—is emotional abuse. And the thing is, often the mother just lets it go on. Parents seem to forget kids start believing these messages—act on them—and then things just get worse."

It's never too late to take steps to change things. Being aware of the problem is the first step. Members can develop skills so destructive behaviors can be stopped and replaced.

More articles about domestic violence and its impact on children are available on the Services Web site at www.31svs-aviano.com/.

Week in Photos

*A look at things happening
around Aviano*



'Bact' to work

Photo by Airman 1st Class Nichole Adamowicz

Staff Sgt. Monica Uruchurtu, 31st Medical Support Squadron, Medical Laboratory Craftsman swabs a urine sample into a blood agar for 24 hours to grow either gram negative or gram positive types of bacteria.



Chiefs and chefs

Photo by Senior Airman Lakisha Croley

Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, U.S. Air Forces in Europe command chief speaks with a local national of the 31st Services Squadron during a visit here. Coleman accompanied Gen. Robert "Doc" Foglesong, commander of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Nichole Adamowicz

Gate greetings

Army Spc. Rajeev Nithiananda, a member of the Minnesota National Guard, Fox Battery, 151 Field Artillery Unit checks the Identification of an oncoming car into Area one of Aviano Air Base, Italy.



Bazaar taste

Master Sgt. Vicki Rodrigues, 31st MDG tastes wine from volunteer George Bivens, 31st Operations Support Squadron at the Bella Befana Bazaar here last weekend.



Fun run

Photos by Staff Sgt. Staci Rosenberger

General Robert H. Foglesong, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, leads a mile and a half run with Aviano's commanders and chiefs here. Foglesong visited Aviano last Friday.

Navigating to Nove

POSTCARDS It was all about the pottery when members of the 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office decided to spend some quality time together by shopping in Nove, Italy. The small crew visited just a few of the many pottery warehouses located in the small, Italian village.

“Nove is a bargain shopper’s dream come true,” said Tech. Sgt. Dawn Harris, superintendent. “I bought a Tiffany’s platter for about \$15, which should have cost me about \$120.”

Staff Sgt. Jerome Baysmore, chief of internal information, said he was happy to score some dinnerware. “I’ve been watching too much ‘Trading Places,’” he said, referring to the popular home decorating show. “So, finding some matching sets without paying a lot was pretty cool.”

Scenic route Nove is located about 45 minutes northeast of Vicenza. The best way to get there is to take SS13 to SS 248 through Bassano del Gappa and follow signs to Nove. “It’s quite a drive, about two hours” said Martin Weckerlein, PA volunteer. “But as soon as we lost our AFN-Aviano radio connection, we picked up AFN-Vicenza. So that was good. Going through all the villages was interesting, too.”

Bring the bucks Only a few of the



Martin Weckerlein

Staff Sgt. Jerome Baysmore and Tech. Sgt. Dawn Harris check out ceramic piggy banks at one of the many warehouses during a recent trip to Nove, Italy. “I was considering getting one with my daughter’s name engraved on it,” said Harris.

warehouses accepts credit cards and automatic teller machines are few and far between. So, it’s a good idea to bring the cash along.

“We had to drive to two banks to find an ATM that worked correctly and it was raining, so that wasn’t very fun,” said 1st Lt. Lea Ann Chambers.

Pathway to pots The warehouses

are located all throughout Nove.

“I heard about certain warehouses through word-of-mouth, so that’s how I knew where they were,” said Harris. Information, Tickets and Tours provides pamphlets with directions.

They also offer a trip to Nove Monday. People can still sign up for the trip at Ext. 5072.

Aviano members can share their travel experiences through *Postcards*. Simply send an email to vigileer@aviano.af.mil, telling us about where you’ve been, what you did and what you loved about it. To submit a postcard, send a trip photo along with an email describing your trip.

Information, Tickets, Travel

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Wine Tasting in Piemonte (Adults) - Saturday and Sunday
- Switzerland Lugano and Outlet Foxy Town - Saturday
- Guided Milano - Saturday
- Nove Ceramics and Gold - Monday
- Guided Venice: Legends, traditions and ghosts - Oct. 18
- Pisa and Vicni - Oct. 18

Those going on ITT trips should note weather conditions and dress accordingly. Comfortable shoes are advisable since almost all tours involve walking. People will not be allowed to enter Catholic churches unless they are dressed respectfully, e.g. no shorts and tank tops.

For more information, call Exts. 5072 or 5026. (31st Services Squadron)

Web site advises American travelers

Aviano members making travel plans in Europe should visit a government travel advisory Web page before heading out.

Travelers can log onto <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. Maintained by the U.S. Department of State, the Web site offers a list of places suspected of anti-American activity, as well as passport information and the ins-and-outs of international law, health advice, customs regulations and visa information for travelers. The site also includes contact information for American consulates and embassies.

Call Ext. 7308 with questions about the site or other antiterrorism and force protection measures. (31st Fighter Wing Manpower Office)



Travel Tip #467

Research your destination before you travel. Find out about local customs, greetings and religious practices, so that you can respect and interact better with the local people.

Sports Briefs

Certification classes

Yogafit Level 1 Certification is Oct. 24 to 26 at the Dragon Fitness Center. Those who want to register can go to www.yogafit.com or for more information call Allison at Ext. 7459.

Aerobics and Fitness Association of Americas Certification classes are being held Nov. 22 to 23. The deadline for registration is Oct. 31. For more information call Allison at Ext. 7459.

Run walks

The Trick or Treat Trot, a 5k run/walk, is 11:30 a.m. Oct. 31 at the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information call Ext. 7459.

The Turkey Trot, a 5k run/walk, is 11:30 a.m. Nov. 21 at the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information call Ext. 7459.

Cross country tournament

The annual U.S. Air Forces in Europe Cross Country Tournament is taking place Oct. 25 at Ramstein High School, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

All U.S. ID cardholders assigned to USAFE, to include active duty military members, civilians and family members (who are at least 18 and have completed school) are eligible to compete in this championship. People TDY to USAFE for 30 days or more may also compete. For active duty participants, permissive TDY (to include necessary travel time) is authorized. Participants are responsible for all lodging and transportation expenses to the event.

There is no entry fee to participate and the event is limited to first 200 applicants. The tournament registration deadline is Oct. 21. Sembach Fitness Center at DSN 489-6543 or e-mailing randy.thomas1@ramstein.af.mil no later than Wednesday. Participants will be responsible for their own lodging arrangements after this date.

Further information can be obtained by contacting tournament director, Randy Thomas at DSN 496-7856 or USAFE Sports, Master Sgt Doug Kingery at DSN 496-7935 or e-mailing doug.kingery@sembach.af.mil.

Outdoor recreation

Community members can stop by Bldg 1476 or visit www.31svs-aviano.com for a complete list of rental equipment. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and closed Wednesdays and Sundays. For more information call Ext. 8623.

Aviano maintainer turns Ironman

By 1st Lt. Nicholas Sabula
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

One of Aviano Air Base's newest maintainers is preparing to return to a place he's tried to get back to when he competes Oct. 18 at the Hawaii Ironman triathlon.

Bryant Hafler, 31st Maintenance Squadron Avionics Sensor Section NCOIC, is making a return to Hawaii after a five-year hiatus from the race affectionately known to triathletes worldwide as the granddaddy of them all. The 25th running of the Ironman consists of the standard 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112-mile bike leg and a 26.2-mile marathon run.

"Of maybe five high points in my life that's one (racing Hawaii), said Hafler. Unfortunately it's not that easy to get back."

Hafler joins Tamara Parsons, 31st Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight commander, as a member of the Air Force team racing the event on Kona, Hawaii's Big Island. Two of the six people making up the Air Force Triathlon Team come from Aviano. They will compete against teams from other branches of the service and about 1,500 other triathletes, but more importantly, against the elements and themselves.

"The fact that I'm racing for the Air Force feels good—it's sort of a culmination of a lot of things because I feel that this is probably the last time I'll be going to Kona," he said.

Hafler started out racing bicycles, but transitioned to triathlons after competing in a few smaller races while stationed at Holloman Air Force Base, NM. In 1998 he started traveling to races around the area and entered a half Ironman-distance race in Texas. To his surprise he placed in his division and earned a spot at Hawaii that year.

"I wasn't actually aiming for an Ironman when I went there," joked Hafler. "But as soon as you get the slot you feel the weight on your shoulders, like it's now really time to start training."

Enter his wife Marianne Hafler, 31st Medical Operations Squadron, who would become his teammate in preparation.

"Coming from a bicycle racing background really helped. I was a terror on the bike but I couldn't swim very well," said Hafler. She helped him by working on his swimming technique, nutrition, and helping him monitor his training. But above all, she was his support mechanism.

Hafler typically averages 250-300 miles cycling, 30-40 miles running and 5-7 miles swimming a week. However he said that his workouts are not planned by distance.

"I train by time, about 18-22 hours a week. My longest runs have been 3 hours, you don't need to do and you shouldn't do the distances of the race in training for Ironman. Your body will break down." He said his longest bike ride has been 100 miles, or 5 hours and that the way to train for this race is consistency — three rides three runs and two swims a week.

While most permanent change of station moves can cause disruption in normal activities, this wasn't the case with Hafler arriving here.

Hafler arrived with his bike and didn't skip a beat as the training continued. Although he's suffered jetlag and a bike crash since he arrived Sept. 11, he just started to feel more confident the closer he gets to the race. He said the trick has been to make the training so hard that the race goes easy. "Three days after we got here I crashed on my bicycle and tore my hip up pretty good. I was coming down from Piancavallo and I was on the brakes so hard; the wheel heated up so much that it blew the tire off the rim."

Hafler said having a spouse who understands the big picture is key to making Ironman dreams

come true, especially when dealing with injury, fatigue, or the basic need to train more.

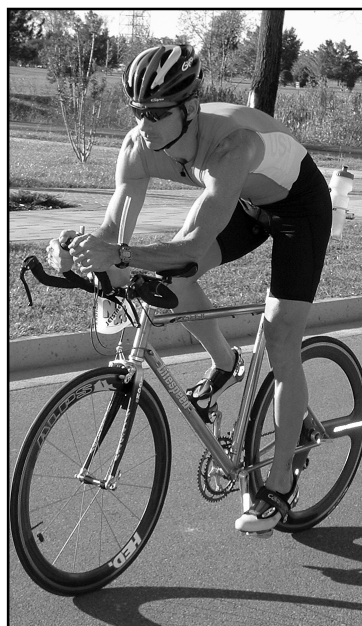
Marianne, who has worked in the medical tent at Ironman events, said that being a supportive spouse for the Ironman can be almost as tough as the training or racing.

"I'm usually more nervous during the races than he is," said Marianne. "The morning of Ironman 98 I was a basket case." But she said to making your spouse's Ironman dreams come true really comes down to one thing: to be active in it.

"She has been my guiding light and motivation for all of this," he said. "I promised her I'm going to calm down for awhile—we're over in Italy now so we're going to be tourists for awhile." But first he says he'll focus on this race as the pinnacle of his triathlon career.

While Hafler said he should have a good race, he maintains that covering the entire course is all about reaching the final stretch of the run when you cross the finish line.

"That one 30-second moment is something I've been trying to reproduce for the last five years."



1st Lt. Nicholas Sabula

Bryant Hafler trains for the bicycle portion of the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon, Oct. 18.